

Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in Tanada Creek in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Tanada Creek supports the northern most sockeye salmon run of significant size in the Copper River. Tanada Creek sockeye contribute to fisheries throughout the Copper River drainage, including the Batzulnetas subsistence fishery located at the Tanada Creek confluence with the Copper River. The magnitude of spawning escapement has been sporadically assessed with variable success. This project to assess spawning escapement of sockeye salmon into Tanada Creek was initiated in 2001, and has continued through 2006. A floating resistance board weir and video escapement tower have been tested for feasibility since 2002. Tanada Creek salmon are highly susceptible to federal and state subsistence users as well as to commercial harvesters. The Batzulnetas Area subsistence fisheries specifically target Tanada Creek salmon stocks. Monitoring the Tanada Creek salmon stocks aids in assessing sockeye salmon escapement into the uppermost tributaries of the Copper River and in evaluating the harvest opportunity for subsistence fishers in the Batzulnetas Area fishery and the uppermost portion of the Glennallen Subdistrict. Eight years' worth of data shows that the sockeye salmon escapement and migratory timing into the Tanada Lake drainage system is highly variable. Despite some equipment problems during high water events, the weir and video recording in Tanada Creek have been useful and effective monitoring tools in accumulating escapement data in this drainage.

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